

Wheaton Franciscan Sisters

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June 17, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney
Commissioner, U.S. FDA
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 1471
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Dr. Henney:

More and more disease causing bacteria are becoming resistant to treatment by anti-biotics. For example, more than 90% of strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* are now resistant to penicillin. Why has this occurred? Because of over-use of antibiotics, specifically by indiscriminate use of the drugs among cattle, hogs and poultry feed, not because the animals are sick, but to promote growth and prevent disease. This is not necessary.

When people need to be treated, these drugs will be ineffective. Sweden does not permit any of these drugs and their meat production is highly successful. Must we wait until crises mount to stop the practice of using drugs for such non-essential reasons?

We urge the FDA to strengthen its proposals on limiting new uses of antibiotics in agriculture. The current use should also be drastically reduced. As a member of the Environmental Defense Fund we join in their petition that the FDA revoke its approvals for existing uses of 6 antibiotics in animal feed, consistent with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control. We urge you to act now while there is still time.

Sincerely,

Sister Marion Cronk

Sister Marion Cronk
Justice and Peace Network

99P-0485

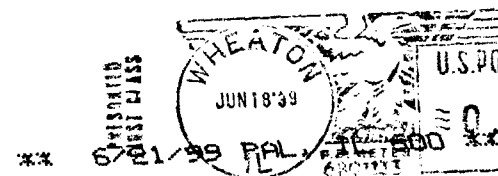
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Justice and Peace Network

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